

Remarks/Arguments

Responsive to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, six sheets of new formal drawing containing Figs. 1-7 are enclosed.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 112 set forth in paragraphs 2-4 of the Office Action, from the Examiner's comments at the end of paragraph 4 it appears that the claim language problem relative to part d) of claim 1 and claim 2 relates to the existence of the two embodiments referred to by the Examiner. Accordingly, part d) of claim 1 has been amended to generically include multiple embodiments, and the original subject matter of claim 1, part d) is included in new claim 6. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended, dependent claim 2 and new 6 are believed to satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 112.

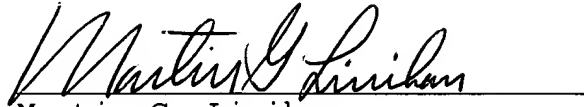
Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 USC 102 based on Fujimoto et al is respectfully requested for the following reasons. The arrangement disclosed by Fujimoto et al takes the significantly different approach of providing touch plate 1910 to be contacted by the tip of the finger. Applicants' invention, on the other hand, provides a stop post to be contacted by the region of the hand between two adjacent fingers as shown, for example, in Fig. 1 of the instant application. Claim 1 in part b) is amended to point out this significant distinction between applicant's claimed invention and the apparatus disclosed by Fujimoto et al.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 as amend and dependent claims 2-6 are believed to patentably distinguish over Fujimoto et al within the meaning 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103.

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martin G. Linihan", is written over a horizontal line.

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December 3, 2003